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ABSTRACT

This unit includes objectives, content, and activities to help students actively explore and analyze the changes that have been affecting the people of South Africa since the end of apartheid. The lessons use materials from interviews with people from a variety of South African backgrounds and their perceptions of the changes in their country. (EH)

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Perceptions of the People of the New South Africa

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During the summer of 1996 I was a participant in the Fulbright-Hays Program in South Africa. Having not been alive through legal segregation nor the Black Civil Rights Movement in the United States, I was very interested in the old apartheid system of South Africa. I have great difficulty understanding how anyone could believe that institutionalized racism is fair and just. Thus I chose to explore how peopleslives have changed, if it has changed, due to the end of apartheid and the electionof Nelson Mandela.

Throughout my travels in South Africa I tried to speak with a wide variety of individuals about their lives today. I interacted with children in primary and secondary schools, teachers, administrators, employed and unemployed individuals, and people from the various races. The major interest was to analyze how the people perceived their lives today compared to under the old apartheid system. As an educator I was most interested in how these opinions and views could be used by my students to better understand the new South Africa.

I have created a unit based upon this research. I have included objectives, content, and activities. Anyone teaching about the new South Africa can use this unit to engage their students to actively explore and analyze the changes that are affecting all the people. My hope is that our students, like the people of South Africa, can better understand the implications the past has on the present and the future.

Objectives:
The student will:

investigate the conditions of the old apartheid system based upon the views of the people in the new South Africa.

identify the significant people who helped end the old apartheid system, with a special emphasis on Nelson Mandela.

compare and contrast the views, ideas, and opinions of the people of the new South Africa.

predict the future of South Africa.

Content:
I have divided the responses into groups based upon the races found in South Africa. Within the race grouping, I tried to begin with the youngest views and end with the older generations.

A. The Blacks of South Africa

A 10 year old female student in Potgietesrus
"White kids don't invite us to parties. I wanted to go to this new integrated school to get a better education. The teachers do treat us fairly. The white kids play with us at school, but not outside of school. With the new president things will get better. I want to be a doctor."

A 12 year old male student at a public primary school, Bathu, in Bloemfontein
" I want to go to America where everyone is treated good. I want to play soccer and be a doctor. Everything is ok now that Mandela is president."

A 15 year male student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Blacks and whites used to be separated, but now blacks have freedom of movement. I feel comfortable in the Indian school. It takes me an hour to get to school. There are more opportunities now that Mandela is president. I want to be a doctor."

A 16 year old high school male living in Soweto
" The government is renovating schools. Some whites hate us, but there are 10 whites living in Soweto. Less than 40% of the students graduate from high school and can't do math because teachers are bad."

An 18 year old unemployed male living in Soweto
" The government has built more homes. Unemployment is high. The government won't pay for college. It is going to take 20 years for people in Soweto and shacks to see improvement. And I won't see improvement for myself but, will see it for my children. The top guys in the ANC promised everything to get elected. The majority of the whites hate us and those whites that live in Soweto are very poor."

A 20 year old unemployed male living in Soweto
" Now there are more jobs and more roads and streets have been built. The process is slow. The police take a long time to help in townships, but will help in rich sections of cities."

A 20 year old unemployed female living in Alexandra
"Now there are more clinics and more doctors. I have no work and no money for school. I believe in Mandela. It will take a long time to get better, but it will be better for my children. In schools some teachers are good and some are not good. Some teachers are lazy and some don't know the subject. I have no white friends, but we must forgive white people."

A 21 year old male student teacher at a public primary school, Bathu, in Bloemfontein
"I am planning to be a math teacher. My mother is a tea maker and my father has died. South Africa has improved since Mandela, for example Michael Jackson came to South Africa! Every student is given opportunities to learn at the university. The old government was oppressing us, but there are new opportunities in the new Africa. Things will continue to get better."

A 21 year old female university student studying International Business living in Durban
"I would like to visit the United States, but I love South Africa. I don't want to live in the United States because we need to support the new government and there are lots of opportunities open to us now."

A 23 year old female social worker from the B section of Lebowakgomo
"We black people are underprivileged. The children are illiterate from this area so they don't understand the issues, political and family planning for example."

A 27 year old female Economics teacher at Altmont Technical High School in Soweto
"We all pray together. We help each other. We don't even have a building, they (the government) keep promising us. Maybe we'll have it in 5 years. You didn't see the building in which every window is broken. We believe in God and that will see us through."

A 28 year old female accountant from Johannesburg
"I attended a multi-racial school. My parents were discriminated against more, they faced more degradation than the young. I believe the young will be more forgiving since they didn't face all the years of apartheid like their parents. My daughter attends a multi-racial school. We need Mandela to bring about changes."

A female administrator at a clinic in Alexandra who is between 40 and 50 years old
"We now have more clinics, doctors, and improved health care. We are recruiting more doctors from outside South Africa, especially from Cuba. We have more satellite clinics in the townships. We have 2 clinics serving 400,000 people."

A female administrator at a clinic in Alexandra who is between 40 and 50 years old
"The new government must deal with no jobs, housing, and not putting those in jail who really belong there. I am happy there is no longer apartheid, but it has to change alot. Crime is up. There are more drugs. Alcoholism has gotten worse due to unemployment. The older generation stayed with apartheid so are more patient for change. The younger generation is more impatient. I live in Pretoria and could never live in Alexandra because of the crime. There are more police because there is more crime. Before the end of apartheid blacks patients frorm the clinic had to travel 35 kilometers to a black hospital because they couldn't go to the white hospital in Johannesburg."

A male principal at St. Morgan's English Medium School in Potgietesrus who is between 40 and 50 years old
"South Africa is still backward in things such as education. The culture of apartheid is still there. This(1996) was the first year the government supplied us with books. It was traditional in this nation as far as education, the management was top down, but now people can think and reject what they don't think is good for the children. The government has opened up and is saying education should be school based, people in the schools should decide what is good."

B. The Indians of South Africa

A 13 year old female student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Before Mandela we used to look at black people as "blacks" which was taught by our parents, but by having black classmates, we now know there is no difference. At this age we can still develop into something, unlike our parents who have old views on the situation. I want to go into the medical field, we have a better chance now and the blacks are showing what they are capable of."

A 13 year old male student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Before Mandela was president, there was chaos and now there is peace. Mandela taught us to live together with blacks, we think of them as equals. Today we can play together. Without Mandela we wouldn't be what we are today."

A 13 year old female student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Violence has increased now that the death penalty is gone, criminals want to think of it as a challenge. I believe in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. It is not safe anymore. Lots of things are being unleashed today in South Africa, boys used to be the strong ones, the mature ones, but noe they are becoming more reserved."

A 13 year old female student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Before blacks and Indians were not allowed to reach and strive, but now we can prove we are as good as the whites. Sports will be very big, now we have mixed

sports teams. Time for prejudice to breakdown. Never used to see people for what they are, not true anymore."

A 14 year old female student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Not that bad here because even before the end of apartheid system we had black students. I feel everything is still the same. It is harder for the Indians now because of the quota system (affirmative action) to get into universities. It would be difficult for my parents to accept my dating another race."

A 14 year old female student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Now we don't have to be scared to speak to white students. It wouldn't make a big difference if I married someone outside the Indian culture."

A 15 year old female student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Life is not really different, we just have non-Indian students in school. They (blacks) find our work much more difficult."

A 15 year old male student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"I enjoy fishing and there now are lots of other races on beaches today. Now we are a free country, there are no signs For Whites Only. Used to see whites beat up Indians and blacks."

A 15 year old male student at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
"Lots of people voted for Nelson Mandela not because they liked him, but they wanted to get rid of the apartheid system. I don't like Mandela as president because of all the violence."

A 50 year old male history teacher at the Apollo Secondary School in Chatsglen
" Indians are still stuck in the middle of the social structure. Many black students don't understand English so this is a problem. Transformation is too quick. Alot of teachers are unhappy now because of the quick transformation. There is no bridging to help the transformation. We must just pass them (blacks). Mandela has great support from the whites. Now employers want Zulu speaking people."

C. The Whites of South Africa

A 24 year old male soldier in Cape Town
" I'm leaving next year for the UK because of unemployment here. The army is going down because of the increase in black officers due to affirmative action. I have lots of relatives in the UK. My girlfriend is going to the US for one year. I won't come back to South Africa. Now with the new government, all, including blacks, can join the army; before it was only for whites, coloreds, Asians, and Indians. Now all races could join or be drafted in the army."

A 25 year old female working at the Orange Free State in the Public Relations Bureau
" It is more difficult for the older people to accept the end of apartheid. Younger people accept it easier. As a Christian, you should not dehumanize others. Many of the younger generation use, don't blame me, as an excuse for what is happening to poor black people. They feel you should blame their fathers. Thhings will work out in time, although it will take a long time just like in the United States."

A female in her late 30's who works in the non-government organization of "Create A Craft" in Potgietesrus
" I like diversity. This is a beautiful country. The immigrants are coming back. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else. I left teaching after four years because I wanted to help the nation and community, so I help women in the rural communities in the Northern Province set up independent businesses."

A male and a female in their late 30's who live outside Johannesburg. He is in clothing manufacturing and she is a housewife.
" We want to immigrate to America or Sydney, Australia. There is too much crime now and carjackings in South Africa. Education is going to be bad and won't be recognized in other parts of the world. I don't believe in affirmative action. Now we will become the immigrants. We must take all our money and leave; so many of our friends are doing this."

A 44 year old female who is the Project Director at the Alexsan Resource Center in Alexandra.
" 75% of the unemployment in Alexandra is composed especially of those under 35 years old. I am trying to bridge the inadequencies of the past, although it will take sometime. I need to also do career guidance since it is not really done in black schools. We focus on the youth that have been marginalized. I gave up all the corporate perks for this job. I have lived here for the past 22 years, half my life. I am trying to set up more housing for the youth. In the past it was not politically correct to rely on the government so we relied on donations, but now we can rely on the local government. The youth are asking the government for money for art and culture projects, yet not getting any response. But the new government is much more accessible; we are more likely to speak to people in the government today. The youth will be patient to a certain extent . The main thing is to get everyone together."

A male principal in a high school in Johannesburg who is in his late 40's
"In a staff of 64, only 2 are Afrikaner teachers left after integration began 4 years ago. Some are sticking their heads in the sand. We have had racial incidents in the school, but when you start integration with the younger students, there are less problems. Now the school is 50% black. Now we have 5 black teachers."

A female teacher at St. Morgan's English Medium School in Potgietesrus who is in her early 50's
"I tell students since their parents are paying alot of money you must behave. I will take out the paddle to threaten. I only use it in extreme cases, but the parents support this. The township schools need to sell goods to get money for supplies; we do this."

A retired female in her late 60's who lives in Port Elizabeth.
" We had fantastic colored and black schools. The standard of teachers is bad. We can pick out blacks who are educated in private schools. When black kids come into "white" schools much older, there are problems. But when they are integrated at a younger age, there are no problems. I am not a racist."

D. The Colored Population of South Africa

A 37 year old male history teacher at De Vos Malan Primary School in Port Elizabeth
"Before 1994 there were changes, we could send kids to any school you could afford and live wherever you could afford. The younger generation will be patient since they know little about the way it was under apartheid. In a few years time the Model C schools will be majority blacks and minority whites. Blacks will be privileged because they speak 3 languages, Afrikaans, English, and Xhosa. There are no problems between blacks and coloreds, the sooner the blacks come the better. I don't even know what it was really like under the old system. "

A male vice-principal in his late 40's at De Vos Malan Primary School in Port Elizabeth
" The disadvantaged people are becoming the advantaged. The new system doesn't have the same checks and balances of the old system, so there is lots of corruption and money missing. Crime is getting unacceptable."

A female English teacher in her mid-40's at De Vos Malan Primary School in Port Elizabeth
" We must stop sitting and waiting, we must get up and out and get ourselves reoriented. I believe firmly there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I am proud to be South African; there is nothing to be ashamed of. I am teaching my children this. We must put a smile on our faces and carry on with life."

A male principal in his mid-40's at De Vos Malan Primary School in Port Elizabeth
"This school was originally a non-white, colored, school during apartheid. Now we have freedom of movement and the freedom to live where we want. We are still careful of what we say and this is due to remnants of the apartheid system. Parents with alittle money are pulling their children out of this school and putting them in Model C schools. With Mr. Mandela's release, alot of the people saw freedom, freedom from obligations. One of the problems are the election promises of the ANC, such as building new homes. These promises have not really been delivered. Looking back at the sanctions on South Africa, it helps me to understand better the need for them. There is a low morale among teachers in formerly black and colored schools and some is due to the disorganization of the transformation. One small positive of apartheid was that kids were forced to go to certain schools so there was a need for more schools and teachers."

ACTIVITIES

1. Break students into groups to analyze, compare and contrast the views of the people of South Africa. They should make a chart showing the differences and similiarities of the following:
   A. Race: Black, Indian, White, Colored
   B. Gender: Male, Female
   C. Age: 10-21, 22-45, 46 and older

2. Post the charts around the room and have the students compare and contrast the findings of the groups. Then have the students make general statements about the various points of view of the South Africans as well as other students.

3. Have the students make predictions for the future of South Africa by analyzing the views and opinions made by the South Africans. Have the students share their predictions with the class.

4. Students should analyze the problems facing the new South Africa, economic, social, and political . Then have the students form a political party which will run in the 1999 presidential election. Have the students draw up a party platform in which they express how their party will deal with the problems facing the nation. Students can also make political posters encouraging votes for their party and the party platform.

5. Students can write a diary entry based upon the following characters:
   A. a child in the townships
   B. a woman living in a rural township
   C. a Black South African living in exile during apartheid
   D. a Black South African who returned from exile in 1992
   E. an Afrikaner living during apartheid
   F. an Afrikaner living under President Mandela
   G. an Indian child in a newly integrated school
   H. a colored teacher in a formerly white school

6. Students can respond to the following as journal entries or essays:
   A."Everyone knows that if you took away apartheid, South Africa would be the best place around."(A Black Kenyan in The Africans by David Lamb, p. 337)
   B. " . . . I have one great fear in my heart, that one day when they turn to loving they will find we are turned to hating."(Cry, The Beloved Country, by Alan Paton, p. 276)